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OUR COAST DEFENSES

Senator Squire Points Out Pressing Needs.

COST OF SENATE EMPLOYEES

House Conferees on Appropriation Bills Explain Demands of the Senate.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—It was made apparent after a lively colloquy in the senate today, that there was no disposition among the silver and Populist senators to allow the resolution for a senate inquiry into recent bond issues to lapse. By unanimous consent it had been set for consideration at 2:15 today, but at that time, Mr. Chandler was proceeding with a speech on the Dutton case. Mr. Gray was waiting to follow and Colton had an appropriation bill in reserve. This precipitated a clash in which Mr. Peifer, reinforced by Mr. Wolcott and Mr. Stewart asserted with emphasis that the bond resolution could not be crowded out either by design or inadvertence. An agreement was finally reached to the effect that the bond resolution would come up immediately after Chandler and Gray concluded their speeches.

Mr. Squire, Republican of Washington, made an elaborate presentation of the pressing need of coast defenses, pointing out the present condition of our great sea coast harbors. As a preliminary to a more detailed discussion of the topics, the senator said in part:

"What an absurd spectacle has the congress of the United States presented during the present session by its persistent talk in favor of intervention by the United States in behalf of Cuba and Venezuela. How cheap all this talk, since every man who has a right to sit on the Senate floor is aware of the national defense funds know that as a nation we are not in condition to undertake war or suffer war. We can talk loud and long and profess sympathy, pass resolutions and make believe to ourselves that we are actually taking a hand in the diplomatic affairs and international questions of great moment, but those who are not deceived by egotistical oratory know that the real truth is that this demonstration is mere talk and bluster and vapor sentiment, for at most it is a sympathy that is easily satisfied with merely verbal expressions."

The people, he continued, did not know how shamefully their interests are being bandied and played with by those who represent them in the halls of congress. They do not know that we are not deceived by egotistical oratory, who know the full truth that this demonstration is mere talk and bluster and vapor sentiment, for at most it is a sympathy that is easily satisfied with merely verbal expressions."

The senator said all the evidence taken by the committee on coast defenses is lame in the extreme.

"From such investigation as has been practicable, it is evident that a large amount of destructive property, estimated at \$10,000,000 in value, is exposed to attack or at least to heavy assessment for the purpose of securing immunity from destruction."

At this point the senator presented a statement showing a comparison of our navy with that of England and also a statement of all the steel vessels in the American navy, including those not yet delivered by us, and some data as to the naval strength of other nations.

He then said:

"This summary shows this country to be far behind the great nations of the world in naval strength. Moreover, it leaves out of sight our deficiency in torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers, of which latter we have today one small vessel in commission, while the British have 116, Germany 116, France 108, Italy 100, Russia 78 and even Spain has 78 torpedo vessels; all in the list have 78 torpedoes each in length and over. Sixty-two of the British vessels are torpedo boat destroyers, having equal tonnage and speed."

The senator argued that the suggestion to defend our coast and seaports cities by fleets is impracticable, for it will, he said, require a hundred million dollars to do the work effectively.

If the policy of building up the navy is to be continued at the expense of having to defend our coast and seaport cities by fleets, then the time has come when a change of policy must be made. There is no doubt that the money expended for coast defenses will bring a better return in protecting our country than the amount of money appropriated."

Some time ago, Senator Squire then argued that a glance at the historical development of our coast defenses will show that the question now under consideration does not indicate a new departure, but is a logical step in continuation of the established policy of this government since its foundation. He referred to the seacoast defenses of European powers and to reports from England that England is increasing her fortifications and heavy armament in both Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and in this connection said:

"So it is, we are encircled as a nation with a chain of fortified fortresses and coaling stations impervious to attack, while our rich seaboard cities and ports, commencing at Portland, Me., near the fortified Halifax in Canada, coming down the coast to Providence, Boston, New Bedford, Providence and Narragansett Bay, New London, New Haven and Bridgeport, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Wilmington, Norfolk, Willingboro, N.C., Charleston, Port Royal, Savannah, Pensacola, Key West, Mobile and New Orleans and Galveston, within a few hours' rapid steaming from the fortified ports of Bermuda, Nassau, Havana and Kingston, and again on the Pacific coast San Diego, San Francisco, Portland, Ore., and Los Angeles, with United States dry docks, coaling ports and cities, some of them within sound of British cannon at Esquimalt, all lay exposed and helpless against the attack of any foreign power that possesses a navy."

"Fabulous wealth lies at the mercy of a freebooting enemy, if such shall at any time elude our small and scattered navy."

"Our foreign commerce and our coasting trade are alike without harbors of refuge behind land defenses; our dry docks and ship-building yards, our arms factories and powder mills near the coast, are subject to easy destruction."

In closing, the senator hoped that the bill providing for the expenditure of \$30,000,000 for sea coast defenses would be adopted without further modification.

At 5 p.m. the senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—The house today passed, without amendment, the fortification appropriation bill, carrying appropriations and authorizations involving an expenditure of \$1,384,613.

Financial Debate Cut Short.
ATLANTA, Ga., April 14.—Secretary Smith and ex-Speaker Crisp left for Washington yesterday, probably to have a conference on the cut short. Mr. Crisp's announcement that his physician had warned him against continuing his speaking because of threatening heart-trouble.

IN CLOSE QUARTERS

Timely Arrival of Aid Saves a Spanish Column.

A SPANISH GENERAL SUSPENDED

The Appointment of General Fitzhugh Lee Received With Favor.

HAVANA, April 14.—The line of troops commanded by Generals Suarez, Yucatan and Escharra and Colonel Devos, the latter commanding the Alfonso XIII battalion, left Maricel at the northern end of the military line across the province of Pinar del Rio by different roads. Colonel Devos, in passing the plantation of San Claudio, met the insurgent's vanguard, consisting of 200 cavalry. The latter retreated and were pursued by the troops. Suddenly the insurgents appeared on the neighboring heights, but were driven from them by the soldiers. Near Lechuga a force of 5,000 insurgents attempted to surround the Alfonso XIII. The soldiers fought well in retreating and after the expiration of two hours they reached the landing place at San Claudio and fortified themselves while protected from the fire of the rebels.

Colonel Devos, however, suffered in putting the soldiers on the San Claudio. There the battalion was transferred by gunboat, and soon after the column of troops commanded by General Yucatan arrived on the scene and probably saved Colonel Devos' command from a severe handling.

Proceedings are to be taken against General Escharra with the view of suspending him from command to support the operations of the other columns to relieve the Alfonso XIII battalion.

General Bingham, Republican of Montana, presented the correspondence to the senate, and the committee on appropriations recommended that the bill be passed.

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Mr. Hartman, Republican of Montana, caused a burst of applause by stating that he proposed to offer a resolution to instruct the conference to yield to the senate with an amendment for the payment of the salaries of the house members.

Mr. Cameron, chairman of the appropriations committee, said such a resolution would not be germane. If members desired pay for their clerks during vacations, he said, it must either be done by independent legislation or by appropriating the money from the contingent fund of the house.

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CALIFORNIA FESTIVALS.

Santa Barbara is having its Flower Festival, the fiesta will soon be on in Los Angeles, San Jose will not be far behind with its festival, and other cities and towns will have their share in the festive celebrations which are rapidly becoming so characteristic of California. Californians rightly may congratulate themselves on the growth of the fiesta idea, for it is born of the natural conditions which make this state unique among those of the union. It is nature which makes holiday, and man can do no more, and he should do no less, than to follow her example. It is nature that furnishes our extraordinary wealth of flowers, and all that man can do is in some manner to display them. It is nature that supplies California sunlight, and all that man can do is to use it.

Simply as a business proposition, people of this state cannot afford to do otherwise than to make a specialty of fiestas of one kind or another. Nothing that could be done would advertise the state so thoroughly, for nothing could so emphatically call attention to the unique advantages of the California climate. In the middle of April, back east winter is fairly beginning to loosen his hold on the earth, the frost is still in the air, and a belated snow-storm is likely to come along and make things unpleasant at any time. Here the richness of perfected spring is on the earth, the gardens are yielding their products and the world is fragrant with the breath of flowers.

This is the distinction between California and the East, and the people of the state cannot over-emphasize it, for these are the things that make the very name of California strike pleasantly on the ear, the gardens are yielding their products and the world is fragrant with the breath of flowers.

The same comes from Madera that the reported death of John Bug, the bad Injun of North Fork, is incorrect. Bug had earned a swift and sure death at the hands of his fellow tribesmen many times, but the hand that would dispense justice has always been stayed.

It begins to look as though Grover would have to go on another duck hunt before he will be able to astonish the natives with the valor of his assault upon Spanish oppression of a hopeless people struggling for the rights of freedom.

RANDOM REMARKS.

"Did you hear of President Cleveland's bonfire on the Cuban question?" "No."

"It was a very bright thing. He said it to O'Leary."

"What was it?"

"He said, 'I believe, dear boy, that I will go fishing.'"

It is not every man who can throw a boot at a cat and kill it, brought from across the ocean as did a San Francisco man the other night. Yet, the pride which he naturally would feel in contemplating his achievement must be marred by the reflection that he did not hit the cat. The boot was not wasted, but it fell short of accomplishing all that was hoped and expected of it.

"I notice," said the confirmed woman-hater, "that this paper says the fool women are using rabbit feet as powder-puff. Of course that's a good rabbit, but I don't believe they are."

"It looks to me as if the solution of the rabbit problem has been found." And the confirmed woman-hater chuckled malignantly, but of course nobody paid any attention to him.

BOSS THE BOSSSES.

The *Kern Standard* comes to hand with a marked editorial on the subject of "Political Manipulations." The main idea expressed by it is that the three-fourths of the members of the approaching Republican state convention who will represent the interior should not permit the convention to be run by the one-fourth who will represent San Francisco. As the *Standard* expresses the idea: "Instead of letting the city bosses, from South of Market street grogeries, play the strap game and the shell game on us any longer, we of the country, who make the city, should assume the power that belongs to us of right. We always send clean and respectable men to the state conventions. Let us yield to San Francisco that to which it is entitled but no more."The *Standard*'s position is undeniably sound. The reputable masses of the Republican party cannot afford to be run by the San Francisco bosses of whatsoever degree, nor is it necessary that they should be. The interior of the state will have the representation to manage affairs as it pleases. If it will exercise its power intelligently there need be no fear of dictation by the San Francisco delegation. The Kern county paper suggests that the delegates from the San Joaquin valley, when they meet in congressional convention in Modesto, organize, and agree as far as possible on a plan of action in the state convention. The suggestion is a good one, and it is the better because it can so easily be carried into effect.

The nucleus of an organization of the interior may just as well be formed in Modesto, leaving it to be perfected and completed in Sacramento. If the interior delegates do not unite to protect their own political interests, they will not be wise; and if they do unite they cannot too thoroughly understand exactly the purposes for which they so organize. It will be better for everybody concerned if San Francisco, with one-fourth of the delegates, is allowed but one-fourth of influence. It does not help state or party to have either booted by the city bosses.

There is one sad thought that will intrude itself in the contemplation of the pious Mr. Johnson's numerous and rapidly increasing suits for libel. The commendatory words which have been uttered by his brethren all attest his remarkable success in bringing shame to repute. This being the case it is a very solemn thought that the energies of this worker in the moral vineyard is to be for so long a period diverted from the saving of souls to the prosecution of liberal suits in the federal courts of the state, from Los Angeles to San Francisco. To a man like Evangelist Johnson, whose spiritual yearnings for the unregenerate must of necessity be the absorbing motive of his life, this change of program must be fraught with significance that is not easily understood by people whose life work does not bring with it the burden of responsibility which rests upon those who have consecrated themselves to the saving of their misguided fellow-men. For whatever the result of the preacher's legal crusade may be, he will realize of course that any vindication which can be given by an earthly court, or any amount of gain or any extent of retribution he may wreak upon those who, in their worldly blindness, do not

see things as he sees them, can save the souls who will be lost through lack of his illustrations. The fruits of the greatest victory which the evangelist may fondly hope to win over his misguided fellow men would be bitter indeed to any man burdened with the responsibility of souls unaved.

A New York dispatch says: "Cornelia Vanderbilt and Chauncey M. Depew returned today from their swing around the country and their visit to California, which, Mr. Depew says, is the Garden of Eden, without sin."

So delicate a compliment has seldom been paid to the character of our vintage. The rare old stuff may be swelled with impunity.

There is no immediate danger of a flood at Stockton, and so the voters have decided that they will not build any canals or levees to keep the water out of town. Schemes of that sort seem like opposing the works of Providence, anyway. If it hadn't been intended for the water to come down that way the lay of the land would have been different.

It is an ill wind, indeed, which blows good to none. The coming of Evangelist Johnson to Fresno has, at any rate, resulted in bringing some very desirable legal fees to lawyers of this city. In the interests of those gentlemen the hope may be expressed that the suit which has been opened for the reverend person is a long one, and that the string is lost.

The news comes from Madera that the reported death of John Bug, the bad Injun of North Fork, is incorrect. Bug had earned a swift and sure death at the hands of his fellow tribesmen many times, but the hand that would dispense justice has always been stayed.

The news of the shooting spread rapidly, and Constable R. Lammons of Fresno filed suit over to the scene of the shooting. He found McGrook and took him to jail.

It begins to look as though Grover would have to go on another duck hunt before he will be able to astonish the natives with the valor of his assault upon Spanish oppression of a hopeless people struggling for the rights of freedom.

"Did you hear of President Cleaveland's bonfire on the Cuban question?" "No."

"It was a very bright thing. He said it to O'Leary."

"What was it?"

"He said, 'I believe, dear boy, that I will go fishing.'"

It is not every man who can throw a boot at a cat and kill it, brought from across the ocean as did a San Francisco man the other night. Yet, the pride which he naturally would feel in contemplating his achievement must be marred by the reflection that he did not hit the cat. The boot was not wasted, but it fell short of accomplishing all that was hoped and expected of it.

"I notice," said the confirmed woman-hater, "that this paper says the fool women are using rabbit feet as powder-puff. Of course that's a good rabbit, but I don't believe they are."

"It looks to me as if the solution of the rabbit problem has been found." And the confirmed woman-hater chuckled malignantly, but of course nobody paid any attention to him.

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